

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Advisory Action mailed March 8, 2004.

After entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 11, 15-23 will be under consideration. Claim 1 has been amended herein. Applicants respectfully submit that none of these claim amendments adds any new matter to the application.

Claims 2-10, 12-14, 24-32 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to claim the subject matter of the cancelled claims in an application which claims priority to the instant application.

Claims 2-10 and 25-27 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that claims 28, 30-32 (directed to pharmaceutical compositions) remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of enablement. According to the Examiner, one skilled in the art would not accept the data presented in the specification obtained from neural cells cultured *in vitro* as reasonably correlating to a pharmaceutical preparation.

Without conceding to the correctness of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have cancelled claims 28 and 30-32. Accordingly, this rejection has been obviated

In the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that claims 1, 11, 13 and 15-23 (directed to methods for promoting survival or neural cells) also remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for lack of enablement. It is the Examiner's position that the specification is only enabling for a method for promoting survival of mammalian peripheral ganglia *in vitro*.

Without conceding to the correctness of the Examiner's position, and in order to expedite prosecution, Applicants have amended the claims to recite methods for promoting survival of mammalian peripheral neural cells *in vitro*. Accordingly, this rejection has been overcome.



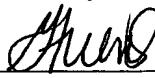
CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue.

Applicant believes no fee, other than the five-month extension fee and the fee for filing an RCE, is due with this response. However, if any other fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. JJJ-P01-558, from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 12, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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